

Radio Broadcast June 2 Temptations

Continue on checking our operating Systems: One of the first ways our communication system is corrupted is by not applying the correct solution to TEMPTATIONS.

Definition: Temptation is a pressure applied through different methods to EXCEED the limitations which God has placed on us for our safety and good.

Scripture Text: James 1: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials. V3. Knowing the testing of your **faith** produces **patience**. V4. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing! V5. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. V6. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. V 7. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord. V 8 he is a double-minded man, **unstable in all his ways.**" **Remember temptation is not sin but YIELDING to it is.**

Verse 2. 3 We can learn to recognize temptation, see the purpose, and see the benefit that can come from resisting temptations. Faith is being strengthened through the testing and it benefits for building **endurance**, and when endurance is made mature and complete, **we will be lacking nothing!**

Temptations will come throughout our lives. The process is always the same, but the issues and circumstances will vary from time to time. Learning to see the means of temptation is outlined in this chapter.

WISDOM: critical in defeating the yielding to the attacks. There are 2 kinds of wisdom: James 3: 14 -17 v13"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. V14. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. V15. This wisdom does NOT descend from above, but is early, sensual, and demonic. V16, For where envy and self-seeking exist confusion and every evil thing are there v17> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." To receive here are the conditions: DO not doubt (used to tempt Eve) and that goes hand in hand with asking in faith.

Some understanding of the definitions in the earthy wisdom passage:

Bitterness: Long standing resentment; unresolved anger, refusing reconciliation.

Envy: The most warped and twisted of all human emotions. It not only wants what you have, but it wants to deny you of it.

Self-seeking: Selfish ambition. Seeking position rather than function. Asking, "What can this situation do for me?" Self is center.

AUTHOR of TEMPTATIONS verse 13: Whenever you are tempted DO NOT say: I am being tempted by God, because God isn't tempted by evil things and He tempts no one with them. Rather say **each one is tempted by his OWN DESIRE**, like a fish going after bait he is hooked and pulled up. Then when desire has conceived it gives birth to sin and sin, when fully matured, brings forth death.

TEMPTATION OCCURS IN THREE STATES OR STEPS, Look at Genesis 3:1-5 and the example of Adam and Eve. Temptation occurs in 3 stages:

1. Satan came as something in dazzling beauty (EZ 28: 11-15 and great cunningness (deceitful) offering, through questions, somethings that appeared to be good. Sins and sin nature initially never show the true colors of character, this is later revealed as the entrapment is deepened.

The goal is to arouse a desire in Eve to accept and move beyond the limits of God's word. Satan was working to bring Eve into falling for his scheme. Her heart, with her mind and will was being brought into question by his questions to her.

Satan uses parts of scripture to plot his deception and misrepresentation: Has God really said?

Insinuated (IN-SIN-U-ATE) in suggestive way God might be holding something back from Eve. There could be more for you and something better.

He was forming doubt on God's character and holiness, motives, and love.

WARNING TO WOMEN: notice that during the actual temptation her head, Adam, was not around. We have a protective head in marriage and should make every means to stay under that head. If you are without an earthly head, then the Holy Spirit, the complete Trinity will cover you. Even if your head is not what you think he should be, the Lord has told us in NT to respect that position, as it is a protective covering. God is ultimately in control, (more teaching on this subject in a different lesson)

Associations matter: God was their friend and communicator of all good things. Eve being more vulnerable and being created with a greater capacity to respond to emotions found this new acquaintance to be friendly, stunning, sensing power in him and still in a state of innocence. She listened and was caught in the trap of questioning her best friend, Almighty God, but ever so subtle.

By just one question, creating a sense of doubt, that something might be better, put her heart in a place of division. Failing to see or apply all the wisdom that she had from her daily communications with God in the Garden; a spirit of discontentment was birth and a desire to move beyond her limits. Could God be unfair in his restrictions? She was ignorant of the consequences of disobeying and eating of the forbidden fruit. With her discontentment comes restlessness, suffering from a sense of being treated unfairly and is God really a God of love that wants what is best. Why would he withhold this desire from me?????

2 The 2nd step brings us into the path of BELIEVING God is not trustworthy and does not really love us. BTW, when we start to think like that, it flows onto other relationships where we have opened ourselves up to this line of questioning God's goodness. A suspicious nature is not a healthy nature. Yes, it is wise to have caution, if you are being led by the Spirit. If God may not be good all the time, then the things, people, relationships, circumstances He allows and/or brings into our lives may not be good. Can't trust Him to protect me. I must take care of that myself. Birth of independent spirit and pride of life.

At this point, she has not yielded, and had within her the power to withstand the attack, as she had no sin in her; but once desire is carried beyond its limits, by curiosity, doubt into the character of God and His love, failure to use the resources she had of wisdom, not trusting her best friend, God, and His counsel, Eve made herself open to deception. So her mind went to logic about the questions and rationalization was born. (Developing a way of thinking that excuses and justifies the right to do what

we want and we, ourselves, fulfill our own expectations in relationships and circumstances. This will lead to manipulation and control of other and that ALWAYS brings disaster.

Look at her thinking: The first thing is that Eve looked at the fruit and said to herself, "It is good for food (profitable). It is something that will help me; it will satisfy a present and immediate need, and what can be wrong with that?" Secondly, she saw that it was a delight to the eyes, which means it was pleasurable, it satisfied her senses and was a pleasurable experience. The desire to have pleasure, at whatever cost, is really the essential element of temptation. It feels good to indulge myself; I love the FEELING of splurging, of doing something that gives me pleasure, even though my mind may be telling me that it may be dangerous. It's the thrill of the tantalizing indulgence.

Feelings and our senses are a true gift from God and has a Godly purpose in our lives. However, feelings cannot be trusted except when their source is solid in the Truth of God's word. Feelings are messengers, (alert us to thoughts and moods that can show we are going off course. Bad moods don't go by praying, they go by kicking;) they are messy, (they get us into all kinds of trouble when we follow them as our final authority and one tool used to lead us into deception) but manageable, (Phil 2, 2 Co. 4-5 for starters.)

Third Stage: Make one wise....the pride of life and arrogance. It is our pride that makes us independent of God. It's appealing to feel that I am the master of my fate. I run my own life. I call my own shots. I can go it alone; but that feeling is our basic dishonesty. WE can't go it alone. You have to have relationships with others. None of us were created with the purpose of being alone. We were created to be a part of a family: GODS. I can't ultimately rely on myself. We are dependent of God for our very next breath. It's dishonest of us to pretend that we are anything but a people, small, weak, and limited. Here lies the deceitfulness of sin. Besides, loneliness is a very painful state to live in.

Pride plays tricks to the ego in a person. It is a very satisfying thing. We want the wisdom of this world: We want to discover ways of building ourselves up, to be somebody. Pride has two opposite ends in showing its ugly head. There is the Superman complex that says I am the greatest and shows it in all actions and words. This is pride turned outward. Then, the more confusing is the Poor Pitiful Pearl that becomes a victim to life and relationships. Always thinking she has been wronged and should have had better than what life has given. This is still pride turned inward. God was unfair to her and blames Him, even though may not be directly aware of that transference of blame to Him because of deception.

Perhaps Eve believed she had misunderstood God's request and Satan was just bringing clarification. Well, after they ate of the fruit, they did know the difference between good and evil, but by personal corruption; not by the way God knows in perfect holiness.

Matthew 4:3 is our other example and is much shorter and direct regarding the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. Satan knew Jesus was the Son of God; but Satan wanted to get Jesus to violate the plan of God with living and responding with earthly and temporal choices.

Verse 4: This testing was allowed to Jesus as He was led into the Wilderness by the Holy Spirit and tested for 40 days/nights and then the suggestion from the Devil was to turn stones into bread as he had a real hunger and necessity to eat. However, Jesus answers with Scripture showing that His priority was

to always do the Father's will and live by the Bread of Life, the scriptures; knowing His Father would supply the daily bread for the physical body.

Verse 5: Satan took him to a corner of the temple quoted scripture to Jesus wanting Him to trust God in jumping from the temple about 450' to test His taking care of Him. Again, scripture is the key: YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE Lord your God.

Verse 9: The last temptation was to be given all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship Satan. The reply was once again direct and simply. "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve. Always, the Lord's eyes were fixed upon the eternal Truth and Life as that was the reason for His coming. To violate the Father's mind would have robbed Him on the right to pay for our sin and sins leaving us all without hope.

The scripture was the only tool the Lord used to silence the enemy. In Gospel of Luke is the only recount that says after Satan had tempted and tested with success, he departed until a more convenient time. After this wilderness experience, He was proven ready to minister having overcome in the human body, giving us a guide and hope for being victorious while in ministry and preparing for our eternal calling.

Are you being tempted to reject the call to having an operating system that will work for this life and offering the ultimate eternal benefits? Are you wanting to find meaning and purpose in life?

Do you have an active operating system but find most of your apps need an updating to the Truth of applying the overcoming program against Temptations? Either way, the Word of God is the essential and vital application for knowing life with joy and purpose, no matter what life is throwing at you. Corrie Ten Boon, survivor of the holocaust said: "There is no pit so deep that God is not still deeper"
Remember the words of Almighty God in Isaiah 55:5-9.